

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A deceleration-limiting barrier, comprising:
 2. a net;
 3. anchors; and
 4. a flexible strip arranged to secure the net to the anchors, with portions of the strip
 5. joined together in a manner as to be susceptible to being pulled apart under a load that is less
 6. than a load capacity of the strip.
1. 2. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the portions of the strip are joined with
2. fasteners having a tensile strength that is less than a tensile strength of the strip.
1. 3. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the fasteners are stitched into the portions of
2. the strip.
1. 4. The barrier of claim 1, further comprising a first sacrificial panel adapted to
2. hold up the net in a vertical position.
1. 5. The barrier of claim 4, wherein the first sacrificial panel includes a smooth
2. surface on one side.

1 6. The barrier of claim 4, further comprising a second sacrificial panel, the first
2 and second sacrificial panels sandwiching the net therebetween.

1 7. The barrier of claim 1, wherein a plurality of barriers are placed end-to-end
2 alongside a roadway.

1 8. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the strip provides a substantially constant
2 level of deceleration.

1 9. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the strip provides a non-constant level of
2 deceleration.

1 10. A barrier for limiting decelerating of a moving body, comprising:
2 means for receiving and retaining the moving body;
3 means for anchoring the receiving and retaining means; and
4 means for decelerating the moving body in a controlled manner to thereby limit the
5 deceleration thereof to below a predefined maximum deceleration level.

1 11. The barrier of claim 10, further comprising means for holding up the
2 receiving means in a vertical position.

1 12. The barrier of claim 10, wherein the deceleration means provides a
2 substantially constant level of deceleration.

1 13. The barrier of claim 10, wherein the deceleration means provides a
2 non-constant level of deceleration.

1 14. A deceleration-limiting roadway barrier system, comprising:
2 a first row of barriers positioned end-to-end alongside a roadway;
3 a second row of barriers positioned end-to-end alongside the first row of barriers, the
4 barriers of the first row being staggered from the barriers of the second row;
5 a plurality of anchors fixedly mounted in the ground alongside the roadway; and
6 each barrier comprising a net and one or more flexible strips arranged to secure the
7 net to one or more anchors, with portions of each strip joined together in a manner as to be
8 susceptible to being pulled apart under a load that is less than a load capacity of the strip.

1 15. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein each barrier further
2 comprises a first sacrificial panel adapted to hold up the net in a vertical position.

1 16. The roadway barrier system of claim 15, wherein the first sacrificial panel
2 includes a smooth surface on one side.

1 17. The roadway barrier system of claim 15, wherein each barrier further
2 comprises a second sacrificial panel, the first and second sacrificial panels sandwiching the
3 net therebetween.

1 18. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein the strip provides a
2 substantially constant level of deceleration.

1 19. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein the strip provides a
2 non-constant level of deceleration.

1 20. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of
2 support members mounted alongside the first and second row of barriers.

1 21. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein each barrier has a male
2 portion and a corresponding female portion of a mated joint.

1 22. A method of decelerating a moving body, comprising:
2 receiving the moving body in a net;
3 deploying a plurality of energy absorbing straps attached to the net;
4 decelerating the moving body using the energy absorbing straps; and
5 limiting the deceleration of the moving body to below a predefined maximum
6 deceleration level.

1 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising supporting the net with a first
2 sacrificial panel that is also capable of deflecting moving bodies colliding tangentially
3 therewith.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising sandwiching the net between the
2 first sacrificial panel and a second sacrificial panel.

1 25. The method of claim 22, further comprising anchoring a first row of nets
2 end-to-end alongside a roadway and a second row of nets end-to-end alongside the first row.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the nets in the first row are staggered
2 relative to the nets in the second row.

1 27. The method of claim 22, further comprising decelerating the moving body at
2 a substantially constant deceleration.

1 28. The method of claim 22, further comprising decelerating the moving body at
2 a non-constant deceleration.